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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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OPENING OF PODEBALKANSKA RAILROAD LINE IN BULGARIA[Information on graphics material is appended.]

In a speech at the opening of the Podbalkanska (Lower Balkan) Railroad Line from Sofia to Burgas on 21 December 1952, Minister of Transportation Dancho Dimitrov stated that 135,000 persons in the Sredna Gora region, and in Sofia, Botevgrad, and Elin Pelin okoliyas will make use of this new line. People from Karlovo and Kazanluk okoliyas will travel about 70 kilometers less on the new line to Sofia than if they traveled via Plovdiv. The new line will make it possible for the inhabitants of Pirdop Okoliya to travel to Sofia and to the east by rail.

During 1953, freight and passengers will travel 24 kilometers less between Sofia and Burgas via the new line than via Plovdiv and Stara Zagora, and 21 kilometers less between Sofia and Stalin via the new line than via Pleven and Gorna Oryahovitsa.

The length of the new line between Dolno Kamartsi and Klisura is 61 kilometers. There are 12 tunnels totaling 12,981 meters, or 21 percent of the length of this line. The "Koznitsa" tunnel alone is 5,812 meters long.

According to Engr Vasil Tsanov, chief engineer of the Dolno Kamartsi-Klisura railroad project, the entire Podbalkanska Railroad Line is so constructed that trains will be able to travel up to 85 kilometers per hour. A Soviet specialist, Engr Aleksandr Glebov, was very helpful in building the line. A total of 219 bridges were constructed on the line.

- 1 -

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1. Location: Not indicated

Caption and Description: "Dancho Dimitrov, Bulgarian Minister of Transportation"

Photograph Description: Size, 2 x 3 inches; fair; newsprint

Source: Rabotnichesko Delo, Sofia, 22 December 1952, page 2

25X1

2. Location: Not indicated

Caption and Description: "Vulko Chervenkov Speaks at Opening of Podbalkanska Line." Photograph shows Chervenkov, in profile, addressing crowd

Photograph Description: Size, 3 x 4½ inches; fair; newsprint

Source: Rabotnichesko Delo, Sofia, 22 December 1952, page 1

25X1

3. Location: Bulgaria, Podbalkanska Railroad line, somewhere between Dolno Kamartsi and Klisura

Caption and Description: "One End of One of the 12 Tunnels of the Podbalkanska Railroad Line." Photograph shows group of workers in front of tunnel entrance

Photograph Description: Size, 4½ x 3½ inches; fair; newsprint

Source: Rabotnichesko Delo, Sofia, 22 December 1952, page 2

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- 2 -

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